AP English IV: **Mrs. Dalloway Discussion Questions**

Mr. Van Engen

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1) How is Septimus an alter ego for Clarissa?

2) What do you make of the opening line of the novel?

3) How does World War I show its effect on the novel?

4) Describe the depths of the relationships that Clarissa has with other characters.

5) What significance does the following line from Shakespeare have within the novel:

*Fear no more the heat o’ the sun/Nor the furious winter’s rages*

6) What does the novel say about the soul? (ex: pg. 12)

7) What significance do flowers play within the novel?

8) How is the structure of the novel significant?

9) Critique the following characters: Clarissa Dalloway, Dr. Holmes, Lucrezia Smith.

10) From the reading, do you believe Virginia Woolf understands shell shock, or does she play into the idea that Septimus is simply mad?

11) Argue whether or not you believe the kiss between Clarissa and Sally is homoerotic. (pg. 32-34)

12) What role does age play within the novel?

13) Analyze Woolf’s use of time within the novel.

14) Why does Peter have the pocket knife with him all the time?

15) Do Richard and Clarissa love each other? Why or why not?

16) Do Peter and Clarissa love each other? Why or why not?

17) What kind of social commentary is present regarding the English class structure?

18) Why do Miss Kilman and Clarissa hate each other?

19) Is it necessary for Septimus to die? Why or why not?

20) On pages 112 and 127, there is an idea of individuals being connected by strings. Is this an effective assertion by the author?

21) Does Clarissa Dalloway really enjoy life, or is she trying to cover up something?

22) What does life mean to Clarissa (pg. 122)?

23) Analyze the presence of religion within the novel.

24) Septimus concludes that life simply means “to be alone forever.” Is he right? (pg. 145)

25) What does Peter truly want out of life?

26) How do individuals within the novel assume counterfeit identities?

27) Do individuals desire enemies more than friends? (pg. 175) Is this psychotic?

28) How is fear conveyed within the novel? (pg. 185)

29) What is the significance in the final conversation between Peter and Sally Seton?

30) At the end, Richard does not recognize his daughter. Analyze this idea.

31) What is meant by Peter’s final thoughts?

32) How would you create a different ending for the novel?